

2010 SUMMER READING LIST FOR AMERICAN LITERATURE

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Updated 5/6/10

<http://ap-english-language.phoenix.wikispaces.net/>

Here is the summer reading list for English 11—American Literature. This is required summer reading. Reading these books will expand your vocabulary, build your personal library, start preparing you for university study, and guide the discussion for the coming year.

You will need to do three reading assignments.

1. Selected stories from *The Tales of Edgar Allan Poe*
2. An American literature novel of choice (See list below) **Do not read something that you have read previously or that has been assigned by a previous class.**
3. *Writing With Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing* John Trimble
4. AP Only: Periodically updated non-fiction articles / essays posted on the wiki.

1. Selected stories from *The Tales of Edgar Allan Poe*.

Poe is often difficult to read. Work through the stories; do not rely overly on the Internet or others to tell you about the stories. Read them for yourself. On the **first** day of school, there will be a detailed quiz on the stories listed below.

- “The Cask of Amontillado”
- “The Fall of the House of Usher”
- “The Tell-Tale Heart”
- “The Gold Bug”
- “Hop Frog”

2. Select a book by an American author

We have provided a list of books that you may choose to read. However, many of you have amazing taste in literature, so if you have a book you want to read, get it approved by **June 5th** and go for it. Otherwise, read one of the books from the list that follows.

3. Read *Writing With Style* by John Trimble. (You may want to do this first since you will utilize his techniques in your writing.)

4. AP Only: Current Events / Essays

I will give you a current events test based on the periodic readings mentioned above. The questions will not be overly specific, but you should have a good understanding of the topics.

Example Topic based on this week's headlines concerning the attempted Broadway Bombing:

Will not be on test:

On what exact date did the police arrest the suspect?

What may be on the test:

How might the suspect's citizenship affect his trial? or

How might this situation affect the no-fly list?

Requirements for each essay:

Essay #1: Persuasive

Identify a theme in your novel, and write a persuasive essay arguing for or against the topic. For example, if your book is about cloning, your essay might be about the morality of cloning. (Should cloning be legal?)

Essay #2: Comparative

Compare this novel to one that you have read in the past. How did they deal with the same issues, and / or how was the writing style similar or different?

Essay #3: Reflective

Consider a topic of your book, a theme, or a certain scenario. How does that pertain to your own life? Have you ever been in a similar situation, and what did you get out of it?

Essay #4: AP only

Choose one of the articles or essays that I assign to you during the summer. Write an essay on how the author achieves his or her purpose. What tools are employed to make the essay effective? Refer to the Trimble book as well as the wiki pages concerning DIDLS, PELLIDS, and Figures of Speech. (Note: You are not agreeing / disagreeing with the author. You are writing about the methods that author uses to make his or her argument effective.)

Criteria

- a. book title and author should be included in the introductory paragraph.
- b. a thesis statement that encompasses the main idea of your essay.
- c. brief summary of the section / article to be discussed (no more than a paragraph)
- d. your essay should be approximately three hundred words.
- e. select and read two of your peers' essays and thoughtfully comment on their essay. This must be at least one paragraph.
- f. Write one additional paragraph for each of your essays in the form of a footnote explaining what technique(s) from *Writing With Style* that you have employed in your work. You might want to cite specific passages / suggestions that Trimble makes in his book.
- g. **POST EACH ESSAY (4) AND YOUR COMMENTS (2) TO THE CLASS WIKI.** Please follow the directions on your teacher's page. Essays posted incorrectly will not receive credit!
- h. **BRING IN A HARDCOPY of your essays and comments on the first day of class.** You must post your essays AND bring in a hard copy in order to receive credit for this assignment. If both requirements are not met, then the assignment will be considered late and will be penalized 10% for each day late.

Don't forget:

1. Obtain the two (or three if honors) required books (see details below).
2. Join your class wiki. <http://ap-english-language.phoenix.wikispaces.net/>
3. Submit your request for the chosen novel on the class wiki by **June 5th**.
4. Post your four essays and two comments to the class wiki by **the due dates listed on the wiki site. (coming soon)**
5. Turn in a hardcopy of your **essays and comments** on the first day of school at the **beginning** of class.

Incoming Junior Reading — Read both of the following books:
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The Tales of Edgar Allan Poe: A Kaplan SAT Score-Raising Classic (488 pages) USD 6.99

ISBN-10: 1419542192 OR **ISBN-13:** 978-1419542190

- Note: this is the recommended edition since it has over 700 SAT vocabulary words in it; you may have to order it on-line since it might not be available in Korean Book stores.
- Note 2: if you can't get a hold of this edition, you may buy another Edgar Allan Poe collection, but be sure it contains the following stories: "The Tell Tale Heart," "The Pit and the Pendulum," "The Fall of the House of Usher," and "Hop Along Frog"
- These stories are also available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/browse/authors/p#a481>

Writing with Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing (2nd Edition) (Paperback) by John Trimble (198 Pages) USD 34.00

ISBN-10: 0130257133 or ISBN-13: 978-0130257130

Have fun with your writing and reading. Enjoy your summer break.

Contact Mr. Longbotham if you have any questions.

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Mr. Longbotham's blog: <http://ap-english-language.phoenix.wikispaces.net/>

Suggested Reading List for 11th Grade Summer Reading

Parable of the Sower, Octavia Butler (YAL-Sci-Fi)

The House of the Scorpion, Nancy Farmer (YAL)

Looking for Alaska, John Green (YAL)

A Prayer for Owen Meany, John Irving (Cont)

On the Road, Jack Kerouac (Classic)

Shoeless Joe, W.P. Kinsella (Cont)

Lovely Bones, Alice Sebold (Cont)

Slaughter House 5, Kurt Vonnegut (Classic)

The Color Purple, Alice Walker (Cont)

A Thousand Splendid Suns Khaled Hosseini

The Memory Keeper's Daughter Kim Edwards

King Dork Frank Portman

A Game of Thrones George R.R. Martin

The Kitchen God's Wife Amy Tan

Hyperion Dan Simmons

The Help by Kathryn Stockett

The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand

Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides

Bonfire of the Vanities by Tom Wolfe

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortensen

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

